FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE APRIL 28, 2014

FURTHER INFORMATION: DEVIN STONE DEVIN.STONE@TN.GOV (615) 313-4707

ELIGIBLE FARMERS ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND SNAP/EBT EVENT

WHAT:

The Tennessee Department of Human Services, the Tennessee Department of Agriculture and the USDA's Food and Nutrition Service are hosting The Farmers' Market On-Site Application and Approval Event for farmers interested in receiving free wireless point-of-sale (POS) devices to accept Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (or SNAP, formally known as the food stamp program) transactions. Staff will be on hand to accept applications, answer questions and give immediate approval from the USDA Food and Nutrition Service to newly eligible farmers.

To be eligible, farmers must:

- Not have been SNAP-authorized prior to November 18, 2011, and
- Provide written assurance that they regularly participate (or will participate) in at least one farmers' market that is not currently SNAP authorized <u>and</u> at which no other vendor is SNAP authorized.

This is especially opportune for rural communities in which farmers' markets are gaining popularity. Through this opportunity farmers can increase their clientele and SNAP recipients gain more access to fresh and healthy foods.

WHEN: Monday, April 28, 2014

1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. CDT

WHERE: The Ellington Agricultural Center

440 Hogan Road Nashville, TN 37220

MORE: Farmers must bring originals and clear copies of:

- 1. Photo ID (driver's license, military ID, or passport)
- 2. Verification of social security number (SS card, W-2, tax document, printout from Social Security Office)
- 3. Cancelled check with bank routing number

The application is attached and will be available at the event.

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